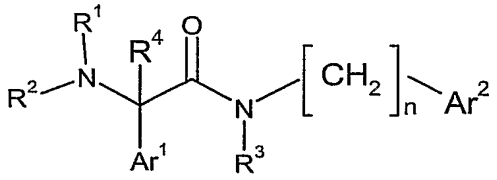
Claims:

1. A compound in accord with formula I



I

wherein:

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}alkenyl, or together with the N to which they are bound, form a heterocycle having 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 atoms or such a heterocycle substituted with moieties independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or C_{1-4}alkyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo moieties, amino, or amino substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or C_{1-4}alkyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo moieties;

R^3 is C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^4 is hydrogen;

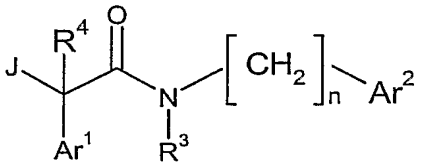
n is 0, 1 or 2;

Ar^1 is phenyl or phenyl substituted with moieties independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or C_{1-4}alkyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo moieties, and

Ar^2 phenyl, naphthyl, tetralin, or phenyl, naphthyl or tetralin substituted with moieties independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or C_{1-4}alkyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo moieties;

in vivo-hydrolysable precursors thereof, and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof.

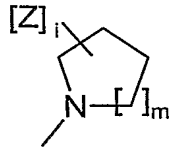
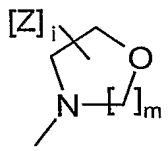
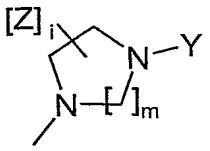
2. A compound according to Claim 1, in accord with formula II



II

wherein:

J is $-NR^1R^2$ or J is selected from moieties of formula III, IV or V,

III IV V,

wherein:

when J is $-NR^1R^2$,

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkenyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, $-CH_2-C(=O)-O-R^9$ or heterocycle,

wherein any such C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkenyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, or heterocycle moiety may be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo moieties, amino, or amino substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or C_{1-4}alkyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo moieties, and

R^9 is selected from hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

or $-(CH_2)_kX$,

where X is selected from -OH, $-OR^5$, $-C(=O)R^5$ or $-NR^5R^6$ and k is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxymethylene or C_{1-6}alkenyl,

where any such C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkoxymethylene or C_{1-6}alkenyl may have 1, 2 or 3 halogen substituents,

or R^5 and R^6 together with a N to which they are bound form a heterocycle having 4, 5, 6 or 7 atoms or such a heterocycle substituted with moieties independently selected from halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or C_{1-6}alkanoyl, or C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-6}alkanoyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo moieties, amino, or amino substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or C_{1-4}alkyl, substituted with 0, 1, 2 or 3 halo moieties, and

with the proviso that R^1 and R^2 are not both hydrogen;

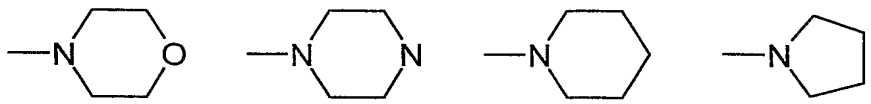
when J is a moiety of formula III, m is 0, 1 or 2;

when J is a moiety of formula IV, m is 2 or 3;

when J is a moiety of formula V, m is 2 or 3 and Y is selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkenyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyl or C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl where any such C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkenyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyl or C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl may have 1, 2 or 3 halogen substituents;

wherein for any moiety of formula III, IV or V, Z is C_{1-6}alkyl, $-NR^7R^8$, or halogen, and i is 0, 1 or 2

wherein R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl C_{1-6}alkenyl or $-(CH_2)_kX$, where X is selected from H, -OH, $-OR^5$, $-C(=O)R^5$ or $-NR^5R^6$, or R^7 and R^8 together with the N to which they are bound, form a moiety of formula VI, VII, VIII or IX,



VI VII VIII IX;

wherein any said moiety of formula VI, VII, VIII or IX may be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 moieties selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen or =O;

Ar^1 is phenyl or phenyl substituted with moieties independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or C_{1-4}alkyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo moieties; and

Ar^2 is phenyl, naphthyl, tetralin, or phenyl, naphthyl or tetralin substituted with moieties independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy or C_{1-4}alkyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo moieties;

with the proviso that when J is a moiety of formula V, Ar^2 is not phenyl,

in vivo-hydrolysable precursors thereof, and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof.

3. Pharmaceutically-acceptable salts of a compound according to Claim 1 or 2 made with an inorganic or organic acid which affords a physiologically-acceptable anion.

4. Pharmaceutically-acceptable salts according to Claim 3, wherein said inorganic or organic acid is selected from hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, phosphoric, methanesulfonic, sulfamic, para-toluenesulfonic, acetic, citric, lactic, tartaric, malonic, fumaric, ethanesulfonic, benzenesulfonic, cyclohexylsulfamic, salicyclic and quinic acids.

5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 or 2, an in vivo-hydrolysable precursor or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

6. A method of treating a disease condition wherein antagonism of NK_1 receptors is beneficial which method comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal an effective

amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or 2 or an in vivo-hydrolysable precursor or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

7. A method of treating a disease condition wherein antagonism of NK_1 receptors is beneficial which method comprises administering to a warm-blooded animal an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or an in vivo-hydrolysable precursor or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

8. The use of a compound according to Claim 1 or an in vivo-hydrolysable precursor or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in the preparation of a medicament for use in a disease condition wherein antagonism of the NK_1 receptors or SRI activity is beneficial.

9. The use of a compound according to Claim 1 or 2 or an in vivo-hydrolysable precursor or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof in the preparation of a medicament for use in a disease condition wherein antagonism of the NK_1 receptors is beneficial.

10. A method for treating a disorder or condition selected from depression in cancer patients, depression in Parkinson's patients, postmyocardial infarction depression, subsyndromal symptomatic depression, depression in infertile women, pediatric depression, major depression, single episode depression, recurrent depression, child-abuse induced depression, post-partum depression, generalized anxiety disorder, agoraphobia, social phobia, simple phobias, posttraumatic stress syndrome, avoidant personality disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder, dementia, hyperprolactinaemia, cerebellar ataxia, gastrointestinal tract disorders, negative symptoms of schizophrenia, premenstrual syndrome and stress incontinence in a mammal, wherein antagonism of the NK_1 receptors is beneficial, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof effective in treating such disorder or condition.

11. The method according to any one of Claims 6, 7 or 10, wherein said compound is administered in combination with a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.